

## 6. MITIGATION STRATEGY

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### 6.1 Hazard Mitigation Goals, Objectives and Actions

#### Hazard Mitigation Goals

**Requirement:** §201.4(c)(3)(i): [The mitigation strategy shall include a] description of State goals to guide the selection of activities to mitigate and reduce potential losses.

The State's mitigation mission is "*Reduce the risk to people and property from natural and human-caused hazards.*" Because we feel our mission is all encompassing, we adopted it as our one and only goal for this Plan. The goal was assessed by the Planning Team and determined that it will remain as it provides a foundation for clear objectives that result in actions that are clear and concise, without a complex and confusing structure as was seen in the original plan. The actions are discussed in 6.4 of this section. The goal supporting objectives are:

1. Reduce or eliminate risks that threaten Arizona's citizens.
2. Reduce risk to critical facilities and infrastructure from natural and human-caused hazards.
3. Promote hazard mitigation throughout the State.
4. Assist local jurisdictions in implementing/sustaining their mitigation programs.
5. Increase public awareness of Arizona's hazards and risks.
6. Pursue hazard mitigation project funding sources.

This goal/objective structure is presented to our local jurisdictions as an option for use in their plans. The structure, slightly changed by the jurisdiction, has been adopted as part of several of our county multi-jurisdictional plans' Mitigation Strategy.

### 6.2 State Capability Assessment

**Requirement:** §201.4(c)(3) (ii): [The State mitigation strategy shall include] a discussion of the State's pre-and post-disaster hazard management policies, programs, and capabilities to mitigate the hazards in the area, including: An evaluation of State laws, regulations, policies, and programs related to hazard mitigation as well as to development in hazard-prone areas; [and] A discussion of State funding capabilities for hazard mitigation projects.

An overview of our hazard mitigation capabilities is provided below and addresses the way the State's existing capabilities can aid the mitigation effort, as well as areas where the needs to strengthen its capabilities.

Areas of discussion regarding the State Capability Assessment include:

- State Laws, Regulations, Policies, and Programs
- State Funding Capabilities
- Current/Potential Funding Sources
- Hazard Mitigation Activity in Arizona

#### State Hazard Mitigation Laws, Regulations, Policies, and Programs

Arizona has a long history of aggressive mitigation. Beginning in 1978, the State had begun a program to acquire or relocate hundreds of homes out of the floodplains. Arizona was one of the first states to pass legislation requiring each county to have a flood control district and was also the first state to create a professional organization for floodplain managers.

Arizona's laws, regulations, policies and programs strengthen partnerships within the state to protect the health and safety of people and property. Arizona's emergency management community consists of thousands of dedicated personnel working together in a truly shared partnership between the federal, state and local jurisdictions and the private sector.



The Governor, executive leadership, and the State Legislature are keenly aware and supportive of the State's emergency management laws, regulations, policies and programs. The Governor has instituted councils, committees and a task force which address many of the pre-hazard, post-hazard and development issues facing Arizona communities.

The following information provides program data regarding the state's pre- and post-hazard management policies, programs and capabilities along with global summary evaluation at the end.

## **PRE & POST-HAZARD**

### **AZ Div of Emergency Management (ADEM)**

Arizona Revised Statutes (ARS), Title 26, establishes the ADEM under the DEMA. Title 26 states the Division shall prepare for and coordinate those emergency management activities that may be required to reduce the impact of disaster on persons or property. ADEM is organized into four operational sections: Logistics, Preparedness, Operations, and Recovery. ADEM is also responsible for the administrative oversight of the Arizona Emergency Response Commission. The Mitigation Office falls under the Operations Section.

The Mitigation Group is staffed by four employees, including the State Hazard Mitigation Officer, Grant Program Manager, State and Local Hazard Mitigation Planning Program Manager and an Administrative Assistant.

The Operations Section coordinates emergency response and conducts hazard mitigation planning through the coordination and application of federal and state resources. It liaises with federal, state and local agencies to conduct a daily all-hazard threat assessment to ensure the emergency management community is not caught unaware.

The Recovery Section manages the Public Assistance Program (406 Mitigation). The Recovery Section is extremely proactive in regards to 406 Mitigation on federal as well as state disasters. Each Disaster Recovery Coordinator has received training on hazard mitigation and works with the subgrantees to include any and all potential 406 Mitigation measures in the project worksheets. The Arizona Administrative Code (R8-2-314) states, "The applicant shall comply with any mitigation requirements specified by the Director for repair or replacement projects subject to repeated damage from flooding or other threats to life or property", which advocates for mitigation on Public Assistance projects. The Mitigation Office and the Recovery Section coordinate very closely before, during and following disasters.

The Governors Emergency Fund (GEF) receives \$4,000,000 annually from the State's General Fund to assist government agencies, local governments, and political subdivisions of the State of Arizona respond to and recover from state declared emergencies. This fund is also used on federal disaster declarations for the state's cost share. If there are funds available at the end of the state fiscal year, those monies may be used for mitigation projects that substantially lower the risk to people and property from natural and human-caused hazards. The Governor has the authority to declare an emergency within the state and allocate up to \$200,000 per declaration. The State Emergency Council (SEC) allocates from the GEF once the Governor's authorization level is maximized.

The Preparedness Section is responsible for the State of Arizona Emergency Response and Recovery Plan (SERPP) which addresses the consequences of any emergency, disaster or incident in which there is a need for state resources in providing prevention, preparedness, response and/or recovery assistance activities. It is applicable to natural hazards and human-caused incidents. The Recovery and Mitigation Annex within the SERPP was consolidated and has been completely revised in mid-2007 as part of ESF #14.

The Arizona State Emergency Response Commission (AZSERC) oversees 15 Local Emergency Planning Committees and supports community, industry and government and academia in: planning, release and incident reporting, data management guidance for inventory reporting, public disclosure about hazardous chemicals and development of training and outreach programs. Also provides consultative services, workshops and coordinates development and review of plans and programs for local planning committees.



#### AZ Dept of Water Resources (ADWR)

The Director of the ADWR has a vested authority in administering of surface water, its appropriation and distribution, and of groundwater to the extent provided by this Title 26 of the Arizona Revised Statutes, except distribution of water reserved to decreed rights.

The Engineering Section of ADWR's Surface Water Division performs Dam Safety and Flood Mitigation activities.

The Engineering Section's objectives are to maximize the protection of the public against loss of life and property by reducing the likelihood of catastrophic failure of jurisdictional dams and to assist communities, counties and local jurisdictions that participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The section administers the Community Assistance Program; the RiskMap program to assist in delineation of floodplains; establishes State Standards for floodplain management; and coordinates the planning, design, and construction of flood warning systems to reduce the likelihood of loss of life by providing real-time flood information to the National Weather Service and other entities through the Arizona Flood Warning System. The section also coordinates with local, state, and federal entities during post-disaster flood and wildland fire emergencies. Additionally, the section is responsible for statewide NFIP coordination regarding repetitive loss (RL) and severe repetitive loss (SRL) properties. Coordination includes but is not limited to collection and distribution of the most current RL/SRL property list from FEMA. ADEM uses both FEMA and ADWR as a resource for these properties. ADWR coordinates education for officials of jurisdictions with RL & potential SRL properties during their scheduled Community Assistance Visits (CAV).

ADWR's Drought Program coordinates drought preparedness and response activities through monitoring, state agency coordination and facilitation of local-level planning. The following activities include:

- New Arizona Revised Statutes, established in 2005 require drinking water providers to develop water supply, conservation and drought plans. The requirements also expand annual water use reporting to the entire state (for community water systems).
- The State Drought Monitoring Technical Committee gathers and evaluates drought, climate and weather data and distributes that information to land managers, policy-makers and the public. An important goal of the committee is to provide early warning of changes in drought severity. Drought status maps and drought status updates are provided on a monthly basis.
- ADWR is working with local leaders around the state to establish county-level drought impact groups. The goals of these groups are to monitor drought status and impacts in their area, increase drought public awareness and develop local mitigation and response options.
- The Governor's Drought Interagency Coordination Group is comprised of state, federal, tribal and non-governmental organizations. Biannually, this group meets and advises the governor on drought status, impacts and any necessary preparedness and response actions.

Governor Napolitano established the Governor's Drought Task Force to address drought issues facing Arizonans. In October 2004, the Task Force finalized the Arizona Drought Preparedness Plan. The goals of the Plan were to identify the impacts of drought to the various sectors of water users, define sources of drought vulnerability, outline monitoring programs, and prepare response options and mitigation strategies to reduce drought impacts

#### AZ Dept of Administration (ADOA) Risk Management Section

The focus of the ADOA, Risk Management Section as it relates to mitigation is to protect the State's assets from loss. Risk Management was established in 1976 to provide insurance coverage to state agencies and employees for property, liability and workers' compensation losses in accordance with the statutory provisions found in A.R.S Section 41-621 through Section 41-625.

Risk Management has the responsibility for making and carrying out decisions that will minimize the adverse effects of accidental losses that involve state government assets. In order for Risk Management to fulfill the responsibility of preventing or reducing the potential severity of losses, it is essential to identify the type of assets exposed to loss; the perils or hazards that could cause loss; the state agency that could suffer the loss; and the potential financial consequence of the loss on the agency's operations.



Insurance: A.R.S. Section 41-621 through Section 41-625 provide for insurance or self-insurance of the following: all state-owned buildings, including those of the three state universities; all property owned by the state; all officers, agents and employees of the State against liability for acts or omissions of any nature while acting in authorized governmental or proprietary capacities, except as prescribed by statute; workers' compensation injuries of state employees; and environmental damage and health threats associated with state-owned/operated property and facilities.

A.A.C., Title 2, Chapter 10 of the Administrative Code supplements the statutes and provides guidelines for coverage and claims procedures, loss prevention programs, purchase of insurance, environmental losses, and the Provider Indemnity Program.

Risk Managements responsibilities for insurance and self insurance include: evaluation of risk financing alternatives; procurement of commercial insurance when appropriate; and allocation of costs for property, liability and worker's compensation among agencies.

#### AZ Dept of Fire, Building & Life Safety/State Fire Marshal

This office was established within the Department of Building and Fire Safety to promote public health and safety and to reduce hazards to life and property. The State Fire Marshall's Office performs its duties by performing inspections, fire investigations, providing public education by conducting workshops and by adopting fire protection codes.

#### AZ State Land Dept (ASLD)

The ASLD was established to manage state trust lands and resources while enhancing the value and optimizing the economic return. The ASLD also manages and provides support for resource conservation programs for the well-being of the public and the state's natural environment.

The ASLD has several Divisions that have some type of mitigation responsibilities. The Natural Resources Division administers all natural resource-related leases, Natural Resource Conservation Districts and any natural resource issue affecting state trust land.

Real Estate Division provides support for state lands in sales, commercial leasing and rights of way. The Real Estate Division offers for lease and sale properties within the growth path of major metropolitan areas. In addition, they also prepares for state land disposition through planning and engineering studies.

The Forestry Division provides for the prevention and suppression of wildfires on state and private lands, located outside incorporated municipalities, through the use of various cooperative agreements. The Forestry Division also maintains in-house overhead and firefighting capabilities through the qualifications of its own employees. They provide technical, educational, and financial assistance to rural communities and private land owners in management of their forested lands. The Forestry Division also manages the Firewise Program which promotes fire-safe landscaping and construction practices to help reduce the loss of property from wildfire. The Firewise Program minimizes the negative effects of wildfire on public life, safety, and property by promoting fire-safe landscaping and construction practices to help reduce the loss of property from wildfire.

The Fire Management Assistance Program (FMAG) was authorized by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and provides for the mitigation, management and control of fires that threaten such destruction as would constitute a major disaster and is administered by the ASFD.

Within the authority of the ASLD Forest Stewardship Plans are written and implemented by natural resource professionals to guide landowners in reducing the risk of wildfire, insects and disease, protecting soil and water quality, providing timber and other forest products, improving fish and wildlife habitat, and maintaining the landscape's natural beauty.

#### **PRE-HAZARD**

##### AZ Floodplain Manager's Association

Promotes the common interest in flood hazard mitigation, enhance cooperation between private, local, state and federal agencies and encourage and ensure new approaches to managing the State's floodplains.



#### AZ Geological Survey (AZGS)

AZGS conducts geological hazard mapping of floods, earth fissures, landslides, earthquakes, and post-fire effects. They are charged with constructing and disseminating geological hazard information, and with providing technical expertise to state and local jurisdictions regarding hazards, hazard assessments, and mitigation plans.

#### AZ Water Banking Authority (AWBA)

Stores unused AZ Colorado River water to meet future needs for: Assuring adequate supply to municipal and industrial users in times of shortages or disruptions of the CAP system; Meeting the management plan objectives of the AZ Groundwater Code; Assisting in the settlement of Indian water rights claims; and Exchanging water to assist Colorado River communities.

#### Governor's Forest Health Councils

The mission of the *Forest Health Advisory Council* is to develop guiding principles for the design and implementation of restoration-based fire fuels reduction and forest health restoration projects based on the best available science; to monitor and evaluate results of existing restoration projects in Arizona, to identify new strategies and opportunities for demonstrating restoration-based hazardous fuels reduction and other forest health restoration techniques; to identify the resources to fund demonstration projects; and to evaluate existing and potential sustainable economic uses for small diameter trees that are compatible with long-term protection of forest health and economic development goals.

#### Emergency Preparedness Oversight Committee (EPOC)

The EPOC serves to oversee and ensure coordination of the numerous federal, state and local homeland security and emergency management initiatives, programs and resources. The EPOC meets bi-monthly, is co-chaired by the Governor's Chief of Staff and the Director of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security. Membership includes key cabinet officials, local government and private sector stakeholders.

### **POST HAZARD**

#### AZ Fire Chiefs Association

The AFCA, through cooperation with the ADEM, ASLD, the Arizona Fire District Association, and the professional fire Fighters of Arizona developed the Arizona Fire Service Mutual Aid Plan to provide immediate response resources for all-risk emergencies. The purpose of the plan is, in the absence of, or in support of a declaration of emergency, provide for the systematic mobilization, organization, and operation of necessary fire and rescue resources within the state and its political sub-divisions in mitigating the effects of disasters, whether natural or human-caused. The Arizona Fire Service Mutual Aid Plan is also included in the Arizona's State Emergency Response and Recovery Plan.

### **DEVELOPMENT**

#### Greater Arizona Development Authority (GADA)

Assists Arizona communities and tribal governments with the development of public infrastructure projects that enhance community and economic development.

#### Evaluation Assessment for Various State Capabilities

A challenge the Mitigation Office has had over the years is not being able to provide enough education and outreach regarding the definition of mitigation along with grant program information. However, in 2008 we developed a brochure which contains information on the grant programs, potential mitigation actions for Arizona's top hazards, and also includes information for pets and special needs populations. We have made the same brochure, with different inserts focusing on mitigation grant programs, available for our local governments. Our website was re-designed to be more comprehensive and contains grant program information, downloadable forms, mitigation tips, and much more valuable information. We anticipate our outreach benefiting emergency management agencies, potential applicants, local governments and citizens of Arizona due to the variety of information on Arizona's risks, grant programs and potential mitigation measures. The

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Mitigation Office will continue to apply for grants to assist us with future outreach and mitigation projects.

The Governor's Drought Task Force task force has determined that one of their challenges is a need for drought planning in fast-growing rural communities where water supplies are very limited and where the economic pillars of recreation, ranching, forestry and tourism are extremely sensitive to drought. This seems to be a sensitive issue and there needs to be flexibility to avoid a cookie-cutter approach statewide. The goal is to have a conservation plan that is tailored to each individual community.

The various councils and committees that have been instituted by Governor Napolitano focus on developing strategies to overcoming the challenges Arizona faces. The councils and committees bring local, state and federal stakeholders together to develop a unified approach to resolve forest health, drought and growth related issues, plus much more. It is very positive step in the right direction for Arizona.

Although the Arizona Revised Statutes, Title 26, gives the Director of the Arizona Department of Water Resources the authority to fund flood control projects and flood warning projects, but both are currently unfunded. These funding shortcomings could be avoided if there was a specific revenue source instead of legislative appropriations.

Many of the agencies and programs are challenged and/or threatened due to lack of funding and are possibly relying on external sources to fund their activities.